

1. (Once amended) A method of manufacturing a fuel cell by fixing a polymer electrolyte film to a frame, said method comprising the steps of:

causing the polymer electrolyte film to have a water content of not greater than 4, which is expressed as a molar fraction of H₂O; and

bonding the polymer electrolyte film to the frame with an adhesive having a modulus of elasticity of not greater than 10 MPa after cure.

17. (Once amended) A fuel cell, comprising:

a frame; and

a polymer electrolyte film that has a water content of not greater than 4, which is expressed as a molar fraction of H₂O, and is bonded to the frame with an adhesive having a modulus of elasticity of not greater than 10 MPa after cure.

Please cancel claims 2 and 3 without prejudice to the subject matter therein.

In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), marked-up versions of the above amended claims are attached hereto on a separate sheet.

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed October 20, 2000 has been carefully reviewed. The Office Action repeats and makes final the rejections previously set forth in the Office Action of May 24, 2000, *i.e.*, specifically claims 8-11, 13-15 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,989,741 to Bloomfield, *et al.* ("Bloomfield") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,636,098 to Salfelder, *et al.* ("Salfelder"), claims 1-6 and 17 over Bloomfield and Salfelder in further view of JP 9-199145, claims 12 and 16 over Bloomfield and Salfelder in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,328,816 to Tamura, *et al.* ("Tamura"), and claim 7 over the combination of Bloomfield, Salfelder, JP 9-199145 and Tamura.

The Applicant proposes herein to cancel claims 2 and 3 without prejudice to the subject matter therein, and incorporate claim 2's limitations into amended claims 1 and 17. Claims 1 and 4-19 thus would remain in the Application for consideration.